

**Truman City Council Minutes**  
**August 28, 2023**

The regular meeting was duly held at the Municipal Building fire department meeting room on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jake Ebert, Councilors Ron Kelley, Patty Truax, Brian Nickerson, and Chris Mosloski.

Absent: None.

Staff present: Utility Foreman Brent Brown, Street Superintendent John Bosshart, City Clerk/Treasurer Melissa Sirovy, Utility Billing Specialist/Deputy Clerk Carol Becker.

Also present: Amber Patten and Annie Nichols CEDA, Lynn Brownlee, Nancy Salic, Cathy and Dave Sorenson, Terry Michalke, Larry Jones, Tricia Brevig, Kaleena Wiens, Joseph Kreiss Truman Tribune.

Mayor Jake Ebert presided over the meeting, beginning at 5:30 p.m., opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda/Additions or Changes

Items added to the agenda; Second Street project. **Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve the agenda with the addition. All ayes - motion carried.**

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting

**Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to approve minutes of the August 10, 2023 Regular Meeting and the August 14, 2023 Special Meeting. All ayes - motion carried.**

Public Comment

None.

Truman Days

Nancy Salic reviewed this year's celebration. Ticket sales were down and it was requested that the fire department sell their tickets at a different time next year. More dumpsters and garbage cans were needed. A medallion hunt is being considered for next year and the committee was asked to design the medallion. It was suggested the dance be moved out of the park and back to the street where it was previously held. Councilor Nickerson had concerns about setting up and taking down the tent in a timely manner to reopen the street. It was a problem in the past. Discussion will continue on that matter. Councilor Truax will keep the council informed of plans for the celebration going forward.

Truman Active Living

Cathy Sorenson informed the council of an application they will be submitting to request grant funds of \$30,000 from the Schmeeckle Foundation for the pickle ball court. Lynn Brownlee advised they haven't found a contractor for the Community Building roof project. Consideration may be given to

a rubber roof, or TPO, which is said to work better if there is ponding. They have spoken to Laraway Roofing and Five Star Roofing. The deadline for completion is March 31, 2024. Verbal approval was given to look at installing a rubber or TPO roof to get the project completed this fall.

### Amber Patten and Annie Nichols CEDA Report and Proposal

A First Impression Report was reviewed that CEDA generated for Truman. It provided a detailed analysis of the city, along with suggestions to promote what Truman has to offer. Proposals to perform a housing study were obtained from CEDA for 10,206.00, and from Bolton & Menk for \$21,690.00. Compeer Financial has grants available to cover that cost. No action was taken on the matter with further discussion to be held at an upcoming work session.

### Fire Relief Association Pension Request

Tricia Brevig was present on behalf of the Fire Relief Association to request an increase in the retirement benefit from \$1125 to \$1175 per year. President Ron Kelley stated the association has adequate funds to pay the increased benefit. Councilor Nickerson had concern about the upkeep of the fire hall. Mayor Ebert suggested tabling a decision on the increase to give the department time to take care of those concerns.

### Utility Business

Utility Foreman Brent Brown reviewed the water filtration project. A transformer at the power plant will be inspected this week to see if it can be repaired or needs to be replaced. Repair work is also needed at the substation on a relay and breaker that aren't working. Brown has been talking to PGR Engineering about performing a study that is needed for grant applications and for ongoing project needs. The capacity sale will be brought to the next meeting for final approval.

Deputy Clerk Carol Becker provided a listing of uncollectible utility bills to request approval to write them off. The total was \$466.46 for the accounts from 2021 and prior. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Mosloski to approve write off of the uncollectible accounts. All ayes – motion carried.** Councilor Truax asked about working with people when they are unable to pay their utility bill during times of hardship. Although there is no official policy, Becker advised the city works with residents in such cases when they communicate the need and they are willing to work with the city.

Willner, Doug	\$ 12.47	Chilel Ramirez, Maria	\$ 10.93
Klous, Danny	\$ 14.52	Wendt, Lonny	\$ 63.75
Comstock, Jason	\$ 227.83	Nord, Charles	\$ 75.59
Kelly, Neva	\$ 61.37		

### Zoning Application and Variance Request

Larry Jones and Terry Michalke were present to discuss a zoning application and variance request to move the bell tower from the church that is being demolished to a residential property. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to schedule a public hearing of the planning commission to consider the request. All ayes – motion carried.** The hearing will be held on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 P.M.

### Approval of July Financial Statements

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to approve July financial statements as presented. All ayes – motion carried.**

### Uncollectible Ambulance Accounts Receivable

A list of outstanding 2021 and 2022 ambulance bills from the former billing service, Expert Billing, were considered for write-off. The Council had concerns about the bad debt and requested to speak to ambulance officers at the next meeting before taking action on the matter.

### 2024 Budget and Levy

Council reviewed the initial draft of the 2024 budget. Discussion will take place at next week's council meeting.

### Resolution 2023-25 to Contract with a City Official

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to adopt Resolution 2023-05 to contract with a city official. Motion carried 4-0. Councilor Nickerson abstained.**

### Approval of Claims

Submitted claims totaled \$264,767.13. Checks #41248, #41261 - #41299, ACH #633e – #650e, ACH #501077e and #501103e. **Motion made by Truax, seconded by Nickerson to approve payment of claims. All ayes - motion carried.**

### Old Business

Council discussed options for a property to use for the Habitat for Humanity house. Councilors Nickerson and Kelley are looking into a couple of possibilities and will bring information to an upcoming meeting. A note will be added to the city website to advise residents of the need for a suitable property for the program.

A meeting was recently held with a MnDot representative to further discuss adding sidewalks and crosswalks to Highway 15. The project was found to be viable and MnDot will get back to the city as to the next step.

### New Business

Councilor Truax reviewed pool business now that the pool is closed for the season. She received many compliments for how the pool was managed this year. Two of the managers have expressed interest in returning next summer and they want to take training to provide swimming lessons. It was agreed the city would pay for the training.

A request was made for use of the Community Building at no cost for a fundraiser to replace flooring in the building. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Truax to approve use of the building for the fundraiser at no cost. All ayes – motion carried.**

Street Superintendent John Bosshart reviewed an estimate from Truax Concrete of \$11,512.50 to repair East 2<sup>nd</sup> street North by Casey's. It was decided to use funds from the new street reserve and to replenish those funds in the 2024 budget. **Motion made by Nickerson, seconded by Mosloski to approve the work, using reserve funds as proposed. All ayes – motion carried.**

Development of the Bau property was briefly discussed and it was decided to hold a workshop on the matter on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M.

**Motion made by Kelley, seconded by Truax to adjourn. All ayes – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.**

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**Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk**